GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:274
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Abatement of Air Pollution
Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Singh Shri Satya Pal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing policy for regulation of air quality and abatement of air pollution at various locations across the country;
(b) whether the Government has taken note of the report of the US Embassy which showed Delhi"s air quality level as very unhealthy and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the number of patients with respiratory diseases have increased manifold in the country due to unhealthy air quality;
(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise; and
(e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.274 due for reply on 21.03.2017 regarding "Abatement of Air Pollution" by DR. SATYAPAL SINGH: SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE, Hon"ble Members of Parliament

(a) The existing policy for regulation of air quality and abatement of air pollution at various locations across the country includes formulation of industrial emission norms with respect to 67 categories of Industries, vehicular emission norms and leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI by March, 2020 apart from comprehensive set of directions under section 18 (1) (b) of of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for management of air quality containing 42 action points and monitoring of air quality in 271 towns. The Government has also laid down National Ambient Air Quality standards which provides yardstick for assessment and implementation of steps necessary for maintaining healthy air quality.

(b) The quality of air in Delhi can be assessed as per National Air Quality Index (NAQI) which classifies it into good, satisfactory, moderate, poor, very poor, and severe categories. As per AQI data for Delhi, the number of days during which air quality was satisfactory during 2015 between May and December were 23, the number of moderate days were 77, number of poor days were 73, number of very poor days were 54 and number of severe days were 8. During 2016, number of satisfactory days were 24, number of moderate days were 85, number of poor days were 120 and number of very poor days were 97. The number of severe days in 2015 and 2016 were 8 and 28, respectively. During January to March 2017, the AQI varies between moderate and very poor. The number of moderate days were 13, number of poor days 39 and number of very poor days were 24. The data relating to Air Quality Index for Delhi is annexed.

(c) & (d) While there has been minimal increase in number of patients with respiratory diseases between 2013 to 2015, the data does not reflect manifold increase. Further, air pollution is one of the aggravating factors for respiratory disease. There are several other factors that may lead to respiratory ailments like smoking, age, genetic causes etc.

(e) The Government has taken several steps to mitigate air pollution which inter alia, include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations / statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules and notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance; regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; and ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10 PM to 6 AM; notification of graded response action plan for Delhi and NCR etc.

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